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VETERINARY ADMINISTRATION AND VETERINARY EDUCATION

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The Veterinary Department of the Ministry of Agriculture is the Administration Center of the Veterinary Service established for the following purposes:

1. Protection of domestic animals against contagious diseases, creation of hygienic conditions indispensable for progressive development of the breeding industry, securing of proper medical care for animals.

2. Protection of human beings from diseases transmitted by animals, or from poisoning with foods of animal origin.

The function of the Veterinary Department of the Ministry of Agriculture, as a branch of the State Administration, is based on regulations of the Administrative Code, and its authority is executed through subordinate agencies of the administrative apparatus.

The activity of the Veterinary Department must be based on most recent scientific achievements, in particular on achievements in the field of Veterinary Science with regard to the actual aims and tasks of the Veterinary Service Organization.

The Veterinary Department must base its activity on the co-operation of a scientific research institution competent to provide the best ways of handling problems confronting the Veterinary Service Administration.

The Veterinary Service Organization, acting in accordance with the existing legislative regulations and instructions formulated by the Veterinary Department, successfully accomplished the task of liquidating wartime epidemics such as glanders, dourine in horses, scabies of singlehoofed domestic animals, foot-and-mouth disease, and brought under control the epidemic of murrain in swine and chickens.

Within the framework of the Six-Year Plan, designed to lay foundations of socialism in Poland, new tasks have been assigned to the Veterinary Service.

In an industrial-agricultural country the veterinary service naturally becomes one of the important elements in building the foundations of a socialistic form of government. Popularization of the necessity of preventing contagious and infectious diseases in breeding centers, organization of universally available veterinary-medical health services, organization of special care and best hygienic conditions on PGR farms and in productive cooperatives, creation of proper sanitary conditions in the production of foods of animal origin -- all these are the fundamental tasks to be accomplished by the Veterinary Service during the Six-Year Plan period. Under present conditions the Veterinary Department does not have at its disposal an adequate professional staff competent to cope with the problems that are facing the Department if it is to comply with the Six-Year Plan; neither can the Department rely on the Institute at Pulawy as a scientific center capable of lending support to the job of fulfilling the assigned task.

The State Veterinary Institute's main objective at present is the production of veterinary biologicals, and the entire scientific staff is busy with this work.

Because of lack of pertinent scientific data, it has not been established, till the present time, which methods are most suitable to use in preventing and combating contagious, parasitic, and breeding diseases in animals.

During the reorganization of working methods of the Veterinary Service in the field of prevention and treatment of animal diseases, the problem was handled rather haphazardly with no consideration given to the necessity of creating a well-planned scheme of action. Lack of an adequate veterinary staff -- physicians as well as auxiliary personnel -- renders difficult the management and efficient operation of these institutions.

Possession of automobiles would increase the efficiency tremendously. Their shortage makes such improvement impossible.

As to the problem of maintaining sanitary standards in the distribution of foods of animal origin at the present organizational stage of the meat market -- there is an obvious need for changing the present regulations concerning the organization of sanitary control as well as the official inspection procedures of slaughter animals and meat. Medical and sanitary inspection of fish, meat, and poultry is performed only at the request of importing countries; such inspection is not provided for the same kind of foodstuff destined for domestic consumption.

For the solution of problems confronting the Veterinary Service as a result of the requirements of the Six-Year Plan it is necessary:

- a. To increase the number of veterinarians and auxiliary personnel;

b. To raise the level of professional competence and ideological education of veterinarians;

c. To advance the scientific activity of the State Veterinary Institute, the Institute should guide the progress of the Veterinary Service Organization and designate methods of applying the most recent scientific achievements;

d. To revise and amend the present regulations, particularly those concerning contagious animal diseases, providing for routine inspection of slaughter animals and supervision of sanitary conditions in accordance with new evolutionary trends in our country and with the progress made by veterinary science;

e. To provide suitable conditions for the advance of veterinary science based on the achievements of the Soviet Union.

On the occasion of the First Congress of Veterinary Sciences, the Veterinary Department, as the executive branch of the Administration, brings to the attention of scientists the following goals:

1. Securing a yearly increase of new veterinarians.

2. Advancement of the professional level of veterinarians to the highest possible standard, with proper provision for individual specialization; creation of opportunities for ideological training and familiarization with current political and social problems; preparation of veterinarians for the task of applying practically the fundamental principles of socialism to the solution of veterinary problems, with special emphasis on social reconstruction of rural districts.



3. Systematic postgraduate training of veterinarians.

4. Selection of proper subjects for scientific research that will serve the purposes of guiding the progress of the veterinary profession and of indicating methods to be chosen according to recent scientific achievements, in cooperation with the Veterinary Institute and Veterinary faculties of universities.

5. Cooperation of the Veterinary Department of our Administration in the task of revising regulations which are now in force, with the purpose of creating more suitable organizational forms and practical methods to be followed in the diagnosis and eradication of contagious, parasitic, and breeding diseases in animals as well as for preventive action in the form of compulsory official inspection of slaughter animals and market meat, supervision of sanitary conditions in the veterinary industry, protection of breeding stock, etc.

The progress and further development of our Veterinary Service Organization, which as a branch of the State Administration is an important factor in the economic development of the country, depends on the progress made by veterinary sciences. On the other hand, a close contact of the veterinary sciences with actual conditions, with the common problems facing the Veterinary Service every day, is prerequisite to a progressive evolution of these sciences and for justification of the position held by these sciences: that of a guide designating the direction in which the Administration should move in the future.